

as much manpower as we could," said Albert W. Billington, special agent in charge of the Washington field office.

Petty Officer Brown, 24, was listed as missing June 11 after her commanding officer called NCIS to report the young woman had missed checks and had not shown up for work.

The next day a Prince George's County detective called Frank O'Donnell, who was heading up the missing persons investigation, to tell him police may have found her body and a man's body.

Prince George's police moved quickly on the case, Mr. Billington said, and with the help of NCIS computer experts were able to track credit- and debit-card usage, and conduct surveillance and searches of the suspects' and the victims' homes.

On June 27, Prince George's police arrested five men in connection with the killings. Marco Scutchings, 18; Robert Odum Jr., 23; Cortez Carroll, 22; Eric Thomas, 22; and Aaron Hollingsworth, 18, await preliminary hearings scheduled for July 26 and 27. The five men beat the couple and stuffed them in the trunk after a botched carjacking, according to police reports. The two later were shot execution-style and their bodies left in Accokeek, police said.

Twenty members of the NCIS investigation team are still working on processing evidence through forensics, conducting surveillance and interviews and searching residences.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CHRISTINA CHAVEZ, OF NEW MEXICO

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2001

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the memory of my beloved Aunt and Godmother, Christina Chavez, of New Mexico, who passed away on July 19th, 2001.

Daughter of Romolo and Mary Baca; wife of Alberto Chavez; mother of Josephina Chavez, Joe Chavez, and Nicanora Thomas; grandmother to seven, and great-grandmother to five; sister to six brothers; Christina will be dearly missed by family and friends.

Christina's father, Romolo, my grandfather, was President of the Conservancy in New Mexico, which oversaw the development of immigration. Her mother, Mary, a devoted housewife, passed away very young, so Christina stayed home to help raise her brothers.

Christina married Alberto Chavez in 1945. Alberto's position with the Santa Fe Railroad took him away traveling a lot, so Christina spent her time raising crops, sheep and cattle on the family farm in Las Nutris, New Mexico, and performing the duties of housewife and mother.

Christina's children recall bailing the hay, feeding the animals, milking the cows, and going to school 12 miles away on the school bus. They recall her perpetually in motion with housework, cleaning, and canning vegetables and fruit.

Christina loved cooking. Her chile recipe was delicious, and it made her famous for miles around. And she could bake bread like you would not believe!

Christina and Alberto built an Orno (Indian) oven outdoors, and in the summer months they would bake bread and roast chile. The taste of bread and chile made from scratch

and baked in an outdoor oven is wonderful, much better than anything you can buy in a store.

And those cakes, cookies, and biscuits! Christina could really bake!

Christina's brothers, including my father, lived nearby, and would always visit and check on her. They marveled at her world-famous cooking, and shared a cup of coffee. They were often joined by lots of friends and neighbors.

Christina was a very kind and loving person, always caring about people, and she always had her home open. She would welcome people with food, and she was always lending a helping hand, opening the door to friends and strangers who needed a glass of water or a meal.

Christina raised three lovely, and successful, children: Josephina, who now works as a Security Officer for Sandia National Labs; Joe, who retired from the Santa Fe Railroad, where he worked on the cars; and Nicanora, who drives a school bus and also plays basketball.

Her children lovingly recall being raised by their mother: "We lived out in the country. Belen was 12 miles away. Mom would take us to the country drug store, Jenny's which had an old soda fountain. They made great root beer floats. They were very pure. The store is gone now. They tore it down. Mom would also take us to go buy groceries. It was like a treat, because we lived so far away from everything."

Christina's children remark that one of the best gifts she left them was the values she instilled in them. She was very religious, and even when she was in the nursing home, she attended church twice a week. She liked to pray the Rosary in Spanish.

Christina taught her children the teachings of the Catholic Church. During Lent, she made sure the family did not eat meat on Friday. Instead she would serve wild spinach with beans. It was excellent and made it much easier to avoid meat! She also made wonderful bread pudding with raisins.

Christina was fond of singing the Hail Mary. She had a lovely voice, and her children can still recall her singing in the home:

Hail Mary
Full of Grace
The Lord is with thee . . .

And she loved to recite the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father who art in Heaven
Hallowed be thy name
Thy Kingdom come
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in Heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever
Amen.

Mr. Speaker, a quiet history runs through our Nation, a history that is not in our textbooks. In this history, the lonely whistles of the Santa Fe railroad can be heard through the night, as a young woman bakes bread on a farm. Her household is filled with the good smells of chile and coffee. Her children learn the words of our Holy Bible, and grow up to be good, God-fearing people with children of their own. From her they learn kindness and good deeds, the value of a hard day's work,

the importance of opening a door to a stranger.

This is the fabric from which our Nation is built. For often it is not the famous and the affluent who shape our country's destiny; instead it is women like Christina Chavez, who raise a family one day at a time, bake the bread, tend to the farm, go the country store.

And so, we pay tribute and memory to Christina Chavez, the last of my father's generation, my aunt and Godmother, loving mother to Josephina, Joe, and Nicanora.

There is a sadness that comes from great love, but there is also a quiet pride. Pride at all the families of Chavez and Baca have achieved in this great Nation. That as Latinos and Latinas we have carved a place for ourselves in the fabric of its history.

Mr. Speaker, Christina's children offer these words: "Thank you Mom for family values. You taught us how to be strong. You often raised us alone as Dad traveled on the Santa Fe Railroad."

And so, I say to Christina, thank you for all you have been to me and to your children, all the lives you have touched. God Bless you, we miss you, but we know you are in Heaven in the arms of the Lord. Amen.

HONORING VERNON JOSEPH CHARRON, JR.

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, freedom, as we know, is not free and requires large doses of perseverance, dedication and sacrifice. Since his extensive tour of duty with the Navy during some of the most tumultuous times in World War II, Vernon Joseph Charron Jr. has traveled to numerous schools and other settings to inspire the youth of America with a similar passion for the United States that he holds. Vernon is a man who has aided the battle of freedom and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize his service to our country.

"Vern" was awestruck at the sight of his ship arriving at Pearl Harbor in 1942. The battle cruiser U.S.S. *Atlanta* was the ship that would be his home during the ensuing conflict. Located on the island of Guadalcanal and three months after the main conflict there, the Americans held a rudimentary airstrip called Henderson Field. Surprise confrontations and unplanned attacks stemming from the Japanese still plagued the island and resulted in many casualties. Obtaining and maintaining control of the waters surrounding the island was critical, and it is here that one of the most gruesome battles occurred and Vernon fought. On the night of November 12, 1942, as 14 ships from the Japanese fleet attacked the Henderson Field, the U.S.S. *Atlanta* and 12 other U.S. ships confronted the aggressors. After the battle, the area would be known as "Ironbottom Sound" due to the number of casualties and sunken debris. Twenty-seven ships attempted to destroy each other.

The U.S.S. *Atlanta*, by the end, had been hit 49 times before it ultimately sank. Although Vernon was the thirteenth man in his crew, he was the only survivor. Amidst flame and further attack, the U.S.S. *Atlanta* lost 170 men that night and although men of this generation